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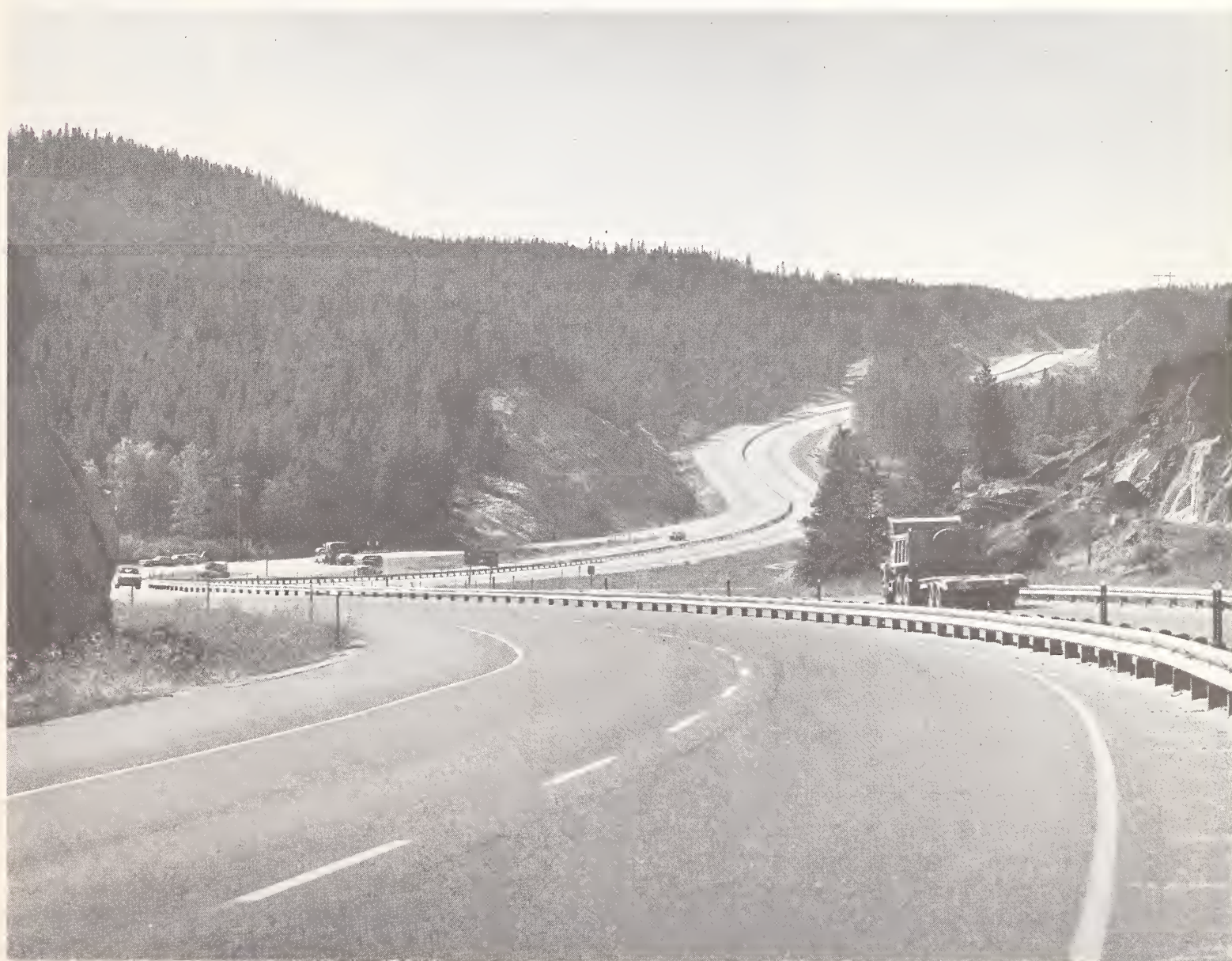
MONTANA'S HIGHWAYS

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*October, 1971*



**INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS CAN BE BEAUTIFUL.** This section of Interstate 90 is located between Cardwell and Three Forks west of Butte, Montana. The scenic drive winds through unusual limestone formations, which are also the site of nearby Lewis and Clark Caverns. New highway photographer Travis Smith took this view on one of his first assignments. The Cardwell-Three Forks section was opened to traffic last year.



## Retirements highlight fall news

Four well-known employees of the Montana Highway Commission have retired after many decades of service, and were feted by their fellow employees and friends at various functions.

They are L. H. Richter, senior assistant materials engineer; Earl E. Hill, assistant research engineer, materials division; A. W. Jones, bridge engineer; and Thomas Ratchford, maintenance engineer.

"Rick" Richter began his career with the highway in June, 1931 as a lab assistant, was promoted to lab testing supervisor in 1943, lab testing engineer in 1945, became assistant materials engineer in 1949 and

### CENTER LINE MONTANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

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#### Division Correspondents

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Billings .....    | James Young     |
| Bozeman .....     | Barbara McGuire |
| Butte .....       | Judy Combo      |
| Glendive .....    | Carole Ritz     |
| Great Falls ..... | Ciel Tinelli    |
| Havre .....       | Edna Hess       |
| Helena .....      | Bev Gibson      |
| Kalispell .....   | Bob Finley      |
| Lewistown .....   | Bea Knerr       |
| Miles City .....  | Jean Sweeney    |
| Missoula .....    | Clara Neely     |
| Wolf Point .....  | Ollie Hauge     |

News items of interest to Highway Department employees are invited. They should be given to the correspondents listed above.



L. V. Richter, Mrs. Richter, Lewis M. Chittim

was made senior assistant materials engineer in 1970. At his retirement dinner, Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer, presented him with a gold certificate for 40 years of highway service. Bill Ashton, retired lab employee, was master of ceremonies. Lehman Fox, materials engineer, presented Rick with a new spin fishing outfit. Other speakers included Kenneth Jones, materials supervisor; Lyn Richter, his son from Salt Lake City; Grant E. Meyer, retired FHWA division engineer; and Bob Rask, chief testing supervisor.

Earl Hill, also a veteran of more than 40 years, began work with the highway department as a rodman in 1928. He was promoted to inspector, instrumentman, and in 1940 became

project engineer in the Billings division. During World War II he worked for the Civil Aeronautics Administration, returning to the



Hill



highway department in 1945 in the Miles city division. In 1949 he moved to Helena in the office engineering section. He transferred to materials in 1951 and has been assistant research engineer since 1965. At his retirement party, Lehman Fox presented him with a Polaroid camera from employees and friends. Speakers included Ruth Griffith, widow of Morris Griffith, former office engineer; G. B. "Gyp" Woodahl, Walker Brown, Bill Ashton, all retired employees; and Bob Bovee, office engineers.

Bill Jones completed more than 36 years of service with the highway department. He came to work for the department in 1932 in the bridge section as an acting bridge project engineer. He advanced to resident engineer, and was named the first traffic engineer in the planning survey section. After two years in the Army during World War II, he returned and was assigned to the bridge plans section as designer. Later he left the department to work with the Public Roads Administration on the Inter-American Highway from May 1946 to January 1949, where he assisted in preparation of designs, plans and specifications for all major masonry, concrete, and steel structures on the Cochabamba-Santa Cruz Highway in Bolivia, S. A.

Jones returned to bridge section in January 1949 and was named

bridge engineer July 1, 1949. He was honored at a coffee reception in the bridge section, as he requested no retirement dinner. Mr. Chittim presented him with a set of bookends made of concrete taken from



Jones

the bridge over the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone for which he was resident engineer in 1932. He also received a gift from his fellow employees.

Tom Ratchford was honored at two functions, the first at the annual

headquarters picnic. Over 600 persons were on hand, many from out of town, to hear former employee Ed Vollmer present him with a television set for his new home at Big Fork. Other speakers were Doug Davis from FHWA, who presented him with a set of golf balls, and William Woolston, maintenance supervisor from Billings, who presented a golf putter from his eastern friends. Bum Toombs, assistant maintenance supervisor also spoke. His second party was held in the maintenance office where Tom greeted his many co-workers. Don Gruel, new maintenance engineer, presented him with a gift and pinned an orchid on Mrs. Ratchford.

Tom accumulated over 38 years of service with the department. He began his career as an axeman in the Kalispell division in 1927 and with the exception of the war years between 1942 and 1946, when he was an engineer with a contracting firm building airports for the Air Force, he has served with the department continuously. He was promoted to chairman, rodman, and instrumentman, and later to soils engineer, project engineer and resident engineer. He was named division engineer for the Bozeman division in 1951, then was transferred to Helena in 1957 as assistant construction engineer. He was named project control officer in 1960 and in 1962 became maintenance engineer.



Susie Curtis, Margaret Ward, Marvin Brackman, Don Gruel, Mrs. Ratchford, Bum Toombs, Tom Ratchford, Art Hall.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Great Falls

Ciel Tinelli



Nancy, Mary Karen

Nancy Richardson, left and Mary Karen Rickert brighten the Great Falls Office. Nancy, recently was hostess at the Montana Contractors Association summer meeting held here in Great Falls and participated in a full day at the Country Club golf tournament and lunch at the fishing derby held at the Dick O'Day ranch. Mary Karen, who hails from Butte, joins us as a clerk-typist, is married and enjoys sports and cooking. She replaced Connie Patterson who moved to Billings, where her husband is associated with Drake Gustafson Architects.

Dale Harnish, R/W Agent II, recently underwent leg surgery at the Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle. We wish him a speedy recovery and a hurry-up trip home.

Vera Mans slipped on the stairs and broke her arm, so that made Ed the Chief Cook and Bottle Washer. Imagine our boss with dish pan hands.

Congratulations to two proud papas, Irvin Anderson, Dutton sectionman, a baby boy and Rip Van Valkenburg, engineering aide I, the same.

Gene Bruno is back after spending three lazy weeks out on his ranch, located north of Choteau, and George Davis is vacationing with relatives, way out in Arkansas.

## Lewistown

Bea Knerr

Summer has come and gone, but the extreme hot weather was made good use of in our division. Many betterments were finished and bad breaks were repaired, thanks to the "on the ball" maintenance crews and supervisors.

Winds up to 63 mph hit us one day last week and broke windows out of trucks and station wagons which were sitting in the parking lot. One belonged to Chet Cleland, instrumentman and the other belonged to Alex Ragenovich, D.O.E. Some trees were broken off and a few roofs were raised and all loose items went with the wind. This was the closest thing to a twister, for those of us who witnessed it.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Harcharik, division maintenance supervisor, and Mr. and Mrs. Milo Lahn, retired district engineer, attended the retirement party and picnic in Helena for Thomas Ratchford. All report a good time.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Fred Ellis, who was killed in our division on a construction project. This freak accident also injured Dale DeVore, resident engineer, on the project. Dale received a broken arm and extensive face lacerations and the loss of some teeth. We wish you a speedy recovery Dale.

Ross (Bud) Johnson's mother passed away in Forsyth—our deepest sympathy to the Johnsons.

Welsome to the "Gang:" Jack Barisich and wife Pat, twin boys and two daughters. Jack replaces William Kindt in Winnett. Bruce Briffity and wife, Gracia and son, replacing William Dailey in Grass Range. Also, Sue Baker, our "STEP" child is getting experience in the office.

In our division we not only have bowlers, golfers, fishermen, skiers, etc., we also have a horseshoe pitcher. Joe Braunbeck, instrumentman, tied for first place in the National Horseshoe Pitching Association tourney held in Bozeman in Class G, and first place in Livingston in Class F. Nice pitching, Joe and congratulations.

Some places and things done by our "Gang":

Mr. and Mrs. Don Butterfield flew to Hawaii and spent eleven wonderful days. They attended shows, tours, night clubs, went ocean swimming every day and sunning on the beach (girl watching!). All in all report a good time not to mention the leis that were brought back to the girls in the office. Don's daughter, Beth flew to Hawaii to meet her husband Bruce Carr, who is spending a week of R. & R. while on duty in Vietnam.

Pauline Stephens, Clerk III, is vacationing in Wisconsin and Illinois for three weeks with friends and relatives.

Keith Roane, maintenanceman in Stanford and family visited relatives in the Gas Hills, Wyoming, mining development. They also visited at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, stayed overnight at Yellowstone Park and went to Virginia City and the Lewis & Clark Caves. They reported it to be hot and dry but enjoyed every minute of their vacation, especially the live theatre in Virginia City.

Tom Siroky, maintenanceman at Roy, is already looking for a retirement spot. He and his family vacationed in Florida and now are the owners of a lot there. Nothing like making early plans, Tom.

Former Office Manager, Dick Stoddard and wife, vacationed in California this summer. Dick is enjoying gardening, tropical fish and his Ili Fi.

May and Chet Cleland are spending a little vacation fishing in Canada. Chet is an instrumentman.

Division Engineer Vernon Borden and family traveled to Minnesota for a family reunion with Mr. Borden's family. Some of the family hadn't been together for 18 years. Just seems there wasn't enough time.

Laboratory Technician III, Tom Biglen and family vacationed in Washington and Oregon. While in Portland they went on a house boat ride on the River Queen down the Willamette River. Tom also included business with pleasure and visited a heavy equipment school while there.

Maintenance supervisor and Mrs. Harcharik are vacationing at the



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

present time in Seattle and other points, but will have to get details in the next issue.

Sectionman William Higgins and wife are leaving for Germany to visit relatives and friends, and more will come in the next issue upon their return.

Sectionman Hank Lengemann and wife Pat have their overseas shots and will soon be leaving for England.

Glacier Park was host to senior clerk Roy Ellis and family, also shop foreman Bill Murphy and wife over the Labor Day holiday.

Rodman Douglas Ruggles and family enjoyed "floating on his back drinking beer" on the Clark Fork of the Thompson River on their vacation.

Instrumentman John Rife and family took a wide swing up around the Flathead and Kalispell area on their vacation. Since their return, John is busy with his bow and arrow after elk in the Missouri River breaks—the first time we've heard him really unhappy was with the jolly "out-of-state" hunters!

Our annual highway picnic was one of the largest ever. In spite of the heat it seemed everyone had a good time. All the fried chicken, ice cream, beer or pop, the many salads and other goodies that make a picnic a picnic were on hand. Games for all from 4 to 80 were enjoyed. Retired employees attending included the Benjamins, Lahns, and Nevins and many friends also attended. All enjoyed the old fashioned visit.

Who will get the Blue Bird award? (better known to all as "go ahead, everyone else does").

The Office Foree—On the retro—active payroll jazz?

The Engineers—On the Jorgensen Study? or the Union Members—To strike or not to strike?

## Glendive

—Carole L. Ritz—

Orville Johnson had a little bit of bad luck when he was in Great Falls. He was playing with his brother's dog when it bit Orville in the face. Required 36 stitches, but is healing up very nicely. What is it they say, "Dog is man's best friend?"

## CITIES AND TOWNS OF MONTANA

Try your hand at these:

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Small horses                 | 20. Fortified place               |
| 2. Large snake                  | 21. Flat plateau                  |
| 3. Ancient wreath won by heroes | 22. To separate                   |
| 4. African explorer             | 23. Sauteing                      |
| 5. Civil War Officer            | 24. Crimson Teepee                |
| 6. Small waterfall              | 25. Medicated pond                |
| 7. Famous circus                | 26. King or queen                 |
| 8. Great Learning               | 27. Crippled wild animal          |
| 9. Kind of tree                 | 28. Kind of berry                 |
| 10. Section of New York         | 29. Distant town                  |
| 11. A colon                     | 30. Book of accounts              |
| 12. Thermal fountain            | 31. End of city                   |
| 13. Famous cannery              | 32. Famous president              |
| 14. Hikers town                 | 33. City of measurement           |
| 15. Oven                        | 34. Utopia                        |
| 16. Girl of Ninety's            | 35. Wild animal (several choices) |
| 17. Fisherman's paradise        | 36. Devil's tool                  |
| 18. Famous sailor               | 37. Greater amount                |
| 19. Red gem                     | 38. Little boy friend             |

ANSWERS: 1. Pony, 2. Anaconda, 3. Laurel, 4. Livingston, 5. Grant, 6. Cascade, 7. Ringling, 8. Wisdom, 9. Poplar, 10. Harlem or Manhattan, 11. Two Dot, 12. Geyser, 13. Libby, 14. Walkerville, 15. Baker, 16. Geraldine, 17. Trout Creek, 18. Columbus, 19. Redstone, 20. Garrison, 21. Plains, 22. Divide, 23. Browning, 24. Red Lodge, 25. Medicine Lake, 26. Monarch, 27. Lane Deer, 28. Logan, 29. Miles City, 30. Ledger, 31. Townsend, 32. Lincoln, 33. Circle, 34. Paradise, 35. Buffalo, or Whitetail, or Otter, 36. Three Forks or Trident, 37. Moore, and 38. Wibaux.

—Glendive district newsletter  
circa 1967

What do you say Orville?

Gordie Stuhler, our new steam cleaner operator was married Saturday, September 4, to Jo Anne Chouinard in Glendive. Best of luck to you both. Gordie still went through with it, bypassing all of the advice from all our marrieds. You guys all know it's a great life.

Speaking of love and marriage, I guess I can make my engagement official. His name is Jim Curtiss from Minnesota. So all of my fun and sun of Minnesota land will be everlasting soon.

New employee taking Gordie Stuhler's place is Red Deekett. Red is originally from Richey Country. Good luck, Red and welcome to our gang.

Jaek Riley, division maintenance supervisor, just returned from his second home, Las Vegas. Sure must be nice to go there so frequently. Jaek said that after this he is just going to go in the winter time. When asked why, he said it is just too hot! Don't exactly know just how to take

that one.

Joe Undem's father is and has been quite ill in the hospital. His age is a young 98, but sure has a strong link in life.

Stanley Twedt, steam cleaner operator, retired after 10 years with the Highway Commission. Gordie Stuhler replaces Stan. I guess Stan is just going to take it easy and care for his agate shop.

Dick Chrest, R/W Agent, left us for greener pastures in Missoula. Best of luck to you Dick, you'll be missed here in Glendive.

## First aid tips

Bystanders can be lifesavers, if they make use of the things usually at hand.

Your spare tire, even with the heavy steel wheel in the center, will rise to the surface and float. The drowning swimmer can hang on to it and stay afloat. If everyone keeps his shoulders under water, the tire will support six or seven persons.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## *Miles City*

—Jean Sweeney—

Steve Berg, engineering aide I, terminated his summer employment with the Miles City division on August 27 to return to school at the University of Colorado where he is majoring in music with piano performance. Steve's talent at the piano is well-known throughout the area. This is his junior year in college.

Congratulations to our Don Gatlin and Dick Mitchell for their fine efforts in the annual highway golf tournament held in Billings August 14 and 15. Don, maintenanceman headquartered at Broadus, tied for second in the championship flight with his score of 164 and Dick, engineering aide II with Ray Garland's crew, placed first in the first flight with his score of 164. Nice going fellas!

The Miles City division held their annual Local #243 picnic August 1 and as usual had a very fine attendance. The children enjoy this get-together as much as the parents and this year we had some new babies that weren't around at picnic time last year. One of the many things of interest noted at the picnic was the outfits worn by the Chris Sakelaris family. They all had on matching outfits, Mom and Dad and their three children. What a clever way of finding each other in the crowd! Very good looking too! Mom Shirley made them. Dad is rodman with Ray Garland's crew.

Nancy Lamb is in Miles City visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lamb. In September she will continue her studies at the University of Nevada and will complete work for her master's degree in June, 1972. Robert is maintenance foreman in the Miles City division.

Julie Ann Larson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Larson August 30, in Miles City. This is daughter number two in the family. Doug is engineering aide II with Del Borer's crew.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dorothy have announced the engagement of their daughter, Janet Irene, to Harvey Thomas Riggs, of Miles City. Janet is a 1969 graduate of Custer County

High School and is attending nurses aide training at Holy Rosary Hospital in Miles City. Ed works with Ray Garland's crew as Instrumentman.

Sympathy is extended to Joe Finch, mechanic in the Miles City division shop, on the death of his father, Ozroe Finch, who was killed in a two-car accident south of Big Fork August 15. Joe's mother, who was a passenger in the car driven by her husband, was hospitalized for a period of four days following the accident. Joe and his family were on vacation in California at the time.

In the longevity department we have: Gerald W. Harrsch, rodman, 5 years; Ron Myrvik, clerk 4, 5 years; Eugene M. Bankey, instrumentman, 10 years; Robert E. Swanson, resident engineer I, 15 years; Virgil V. Haworth, Jr., maintenanceman 4, 20 years; Kenneth W. Haughawout, office manager, 25 years; Claude W. Taylor, resident engineer II, 25 years; Darrel F. Gudmundson, maintenanceman 5, 35 years. That adds up to 140 years. That is a lot of years of service!

Phil Owens, sectionman at Beaverville, (south of Miles City on US-312) is back at work after having undergone surgery recently.

Carl Turley, mechanic in the division shop has been informed by Pacific Lutheran College at Tacoma that his son, Ron, who is studying the German language, will be leaving for Germany for six weeks as a part of the college's language program. He will be traveling throughout the country. The trip is partially sponsored by the German government and is on a student exchange basis. While in Germany Ron will be visiting his maternal grandparents who live in Karlsruhe and he will be with them during the Christmas holidays.

Dan Bidwell, son of Dan C. Bidwell, maintenanceman, placed first in the Zone G Punt, Pass and Kick competition at Glendive in the 12-year-old class. Dan will now compete in the district playoff held in Great Falls. This is actually part of the Salt Lake City district playoff, but because of the distance to Salt Lake, the Montana entries will



**Dan**

compete at Great Falls and scores will be compared to the others at Salt Lake to determine the winners.

Don McRae, division office engineer has been very active in the local Caledonian Society as president for the past three years, and this year Miles City and Billings were host cities for the gathering of the Scottish Clans at the 21st Annual Festival of Nations at Red Lodge on August 21. Don was co-chairman with Bill Flockhart of Red Lodge. The Miles City Caledonian Dancers presented many dances under the able direction of Catherine Mathis. From all reports, it was a very fine program and fun was had by all who participated.

Four employees were honored for 25 years of service each at a ceremony in the Miles City division office. Receiving 25-year pins were Don McRae, division office engineer; Claude W. Taylor, resident engineer; Ray R. Garland, resident engineer; and Kenneth W. Haughawout, office manager. Kenneth Rapp, division engineer, presented the pins. Mrs. Jean Sweeney, office clerk, served the cake, which was inscribed with the words, "Congratulations on a century of service to MHC, Ray, Don, Claude, Ken."

(See photo next page)

The description of middle age is when a broad mind and narrow waist change places.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS



L. to R.—Rapp, McRae, Taylor, Garland, Haughawout, Mrs. Sweeney.

## Bozeman

—Barbara McGuire—

Lots of birthdays were celebrated in the Bozeman Office this summer including Kathy Crowe, Cliff Farrington, and Dennis Williams.

Kenneth Jones is on extended sick leave at home. We all hope he can be back with us soon.

William H. Quigley of Wilsall retired on September 1st. Gilbert Jackson of Bozeman has replaced Bus as sectionman. We wish Bus a long and happy retirement.

J. W. (Bill) Bailey has been promoted to maintenance foreman here in Bozeman with Jim Brooks stepping into the sectionman vacancy.

Ray Swanson's daughter Cheri was certainly tickled when all of the Blue Angels autographed her cast at the Air Show held recently at the Belgrade Airport.

Dave Adams of the Livingston crew became a father recently with the birth of an 8 pound boy.

Kenny Noyes is recuperating from a leg injury received while water skiing.

The annual highway picnic was held at Chico on August 22nd and was a resounding success. The Engineering vs. Maintenance baseball game was a blast as usual with the game finally being called after 31 innings. There is still question as

to the winners.

Harold Roby's harem of three women will dwindle to two soon when his daughter, Christine, takes off for a year of schooling in France.

Guy Hembree has transferred from maintenance into the shop.

Craig Hayden, Ennis, and Harold Alverson, Bozeman, are new employees on maintenance.

Bud Chapman coached his Major League team to win first place in the Bozeman city championship.

## Missoula

—Clara Neely—

The annual picnic, sponsored by Local 1199, was held at the Big Arm recreation area on the shores of Flathead Lake. In addition to picnicking, there was swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, and cherry picking. Some brought trailers, others brought campers, and some came by boat. All in all, it was a weekend of fun.

The John F. Van Vynek's and Roscoe Mitchell's spent a weekend in Penticton, British Columbia, square dancing. Harriet and John also spent some time at West Yellowstone for a square dance festival.

We are happy to hear that Elmer Poitras is well on the road to recovery after having had a severe heart attack.

Congratulations to Greg Sweetser and Stephenie Murphy, who were married in Missoula recently. The young couple is residing in St. Regis.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Swisher were honored guests at a right-of-way picnic at the George Halvorsen home in Lolo. Les has resigned to enter the motel business in Walla Walla, Washington. He was presented with a farewell gift.

Vernon Jones has been promoted to R/W Agent I and Otto Krieg to R/W Agent II.

Richard Chrest has transferred from Glendive to the Right-of-Way Department in Missoula.

The Ben Miller's and Lowell Smith's are among those from Missoula who vacationed in Canada this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mosier air jetted from Missoula to Providence, Rhode Island, where they toured Pilgrimage sites, the ship Mayflower II, in Massachusetts, and the historical sites of Concord and Lexington, where the first shots were fired in the Revolution.

That fresh snow on the mountain peaks reminds us that, all too soon, it will be time to cast aside the camping and fishing gear in favor of the snowmobiles, skis, rifles, etc.

## Havre

—Edna Hess—

Receiving service awards were: Edna L. Hess, senior clerk, 10 years; Bernard L. Bergren, maintenance man V, 15 years; Gordon Treftz, instrumentman, 15 years; Albert M. Ullrich, instrumentman, 20 years; Arthur W. Thompson, maintenance supervisor, 35 years.

Robert D. Benson who was maintenance man II working out of the Havre yard was promoted to maintenance supervisor I for the Big Sandy section replacing John Brinkman who retired recently.

Jack Siemens in the Harlem section has been promoted to maintenance man II.

John Yeoman who was recently married, was promoted to rodman. John works with Sam Hatty's crew at Rudyard but lives in Harlem.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## *Helena—Hdq.*

—Bev Gibson—

Louise Bates, recently of California, has moved into the front office in data processing, as secretary to Mike Trevor, data processing director. She replaces Donna Zimmerman, who resigned September 10 to accept a new position at the Commerce Bank.

Secondary Roads Engineer Neil C. Sullivan and his wife had occasion to entertain their son Barry, of Modesto, Calif. in August. The Sullivans made a hurry-up trip to California when Barry had a serious operation, then brought Barry back to convalesce at their summer home in Wise River for two weeks. He is now back at work as an estimator for the Lee White Construction Company.

Jan Magnus of project control spent a few days in the hospital to have the steel pin removed from her hip. The pin was the center of conversation when Jan returned to work and showed it to her co-workers. Quite a piece of hardware.

Sheri Stephenson, secretary in right of way, gets right in the act of house building. One weekend she was wielding the tar brush and had herself quite a splash. It took two of them to scrape off the tar from Sheri.

Employees in the main headquarters building collected dimes to send a telegram of good wishes to our former Highway Hostess, Nancy Harper, Miss Montana, at the Miss America pageant. Part of the money was spent for a bouquet of flowers, delivered to Nancy at Rocky Mountain College, upon her return. Nancy replied, in part, "Wow! How does it feel to come home to a beautiful bouquet of flowers . . . After the whole thing is over, somebody still remembers! Thank you."

Tom Tobin's daughter Mary was married Sept. 11 to Gordon Thornton of Great Falls. Both young people are students at the University of Montana. Tom is in the accounting department.

Jim Hill, bridge, is the father of a new baby girl, born Sept. 17th.

Grover Powers, preconstruction engineer, reports his parents are re-

covering nicely from the effects of an automobile accident last month.

Over 600 people attended the annual Helena highway picnic August 27 at East Helena's new Kennedy Park. The picnic was also the occasion of Tom Ratchford's retirement party.

Nick Rotering and family are taking a month's vacation in Greece. The chief counsel likes to even things out—last year they visited in Japan.

Ross Henry, recently retired specifications engineer, spent some time on the coast on vacation, but ended up in Virginia Mason hospital in Seattle to check on troublesome heart symptoms. He is now home and much better.

Karen Davidson of Butte, who has been working this summer in personnel and accounting offices in Helena headquarters, left Oct. 1st for an extended tour of California with several girl friends.

Bev Gibson, information office, lost a snake in her car recently. It was just a baby snake, being brought

home in a paper sack by her daughter. When they got home, the sack was empty. One week later the snake was rescued from between the seats.

Keith Davis, son of Kenny Davis, supplies, was injured in a flash fire at the service station where he works after school. The high school junior was burned from the waist up.

Jane Pearson, information office, was a lucky winner at the recent home and sports show. Her name was drawn to receive two beautiful mirrors.

Julio Morales, legal section, is again teaching fencing at the YMCA.

Mike Trevor is the new director of data processing, replacing Jim Sawyer who resigned to accept a new position in Denver.

The lodge brothers filed out ten minutes after they had entered. "What's wrong?" a late arrival gasped.

"No leader," replied a brother sadly. "Our Grand, All-Powerful, Invincible, Most Supreme, Courageous, Unconquerable Potentate had to stay home and baby-sit."



**Personable employee**

Hazel Seibold is the charming voice behind the telephone at the Helena materials lab. Hazel not only handles all incoming phone calls, but sends and receives all teletype messages.

Hazel has been with the materials division since December 1969, and many will remember her late husband, Bill Seibold, who was one of the "Three Keyboards", a musical group that played in Helena.

She has one daughter, Colleen Graham, and a four year old granddaughter, Gina Maria.

She recently received some long-stemmed red roses from an anonymous but "ardent admirer," mystifying the entire lab crew as well as the recipient.



# WITH THE DIVISIONS

## Kalispell

Bob Finley

Fables of the Flathead are rather sparse this month . . . seems everyone is either busier than a one-armed paper hanger with the itch, or on vacation. However, some very noteworthy events took place with Loren Dollan moving up the ladder in the design field, now designer II. Gus Strobbe received his 20 year pin and promotion to resident engineer and Tom Barnard joined the ranks of the elite in resident engineer II class and coupled with this promotion and our huge cost of living raise purchased himself a new pickup-camper combination claiming easier access to the good fishing holes with this particular vehicle.



Gus

Also receiving service awards were Howard Fauley, Charles Peca and James Keithley for a decade of service; Iven Herron, "Fish" or "Ike" to his friends, has put in 30 years with MHD, and Victor Baker received his sapphire award for 25 years.

Speaking of awards Mel Mumbower, Bob Finley, and Bill Hebert are celebrating a quarter century of marital bliss.

Several changes have been made in the maintenance department with Ken Clothier moving up to sectionman to replace Harry Roedel who has retired from the Kalispell section. Glad to hear that both Harry and Marvel are recovering from the accidents which felled them. Bill

Price moves up to sectionman at Summit and is catching the winter supply of grub in preparation of keeping the pass open this winter. Jack Decker moves from Columbia Falls to sectionman at Nyaack. This will create additional openings and we will keep you posted.

Gene Simpson gave us both barrels by middle-aisling it and saying "I Do," then promptly resigned from the department. He denies that his wife objected to the company.

Mentioned Vic Baker in the service department and caught him polishing the brass buttons on his old WW II Ike jacket in preparation for the reunion with his old service buddies of 30 years ago. I cannot help but recall some of the old gang in the Ninth Air Force.

Received word of the passing of John Sasek from our retirement board. A friend recalled when John walked many miles each day in order to attend school. His thirst for knowledge has paid off for all of us with the firmly established retirement that we now have. To say he will be missed is a gross understatement and to attempt to eulogize him is a job for each of us.

## Billings

James Young

George Hein's crew receives special commendation from safety engineer Vern Gray. Vern commented that the entire crew was working with all safety measures in the specifications: Hard hats, Vests, and Signs. He added that most crews in the Billings division are working within the safety rules, however, when only one man forgets the hard hat or vest, the survey crew could not be recommended for a safety commendation.

Those working for Hein were: Bruce Opie, Jack Wilkinson, Cecil Gililland, Paul Gorie, and Randy Link.

Lyle Woelich and Alethea Bruner were married in Valier on August 6. Lyle is a draftsman in the Billings design department.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wichman, R/W department, announce the birth of an 8 pound, 4 ounce boy, Rodney, on September 11. Wife

Sharon is doing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kosak announce the birth of a baby girl.

Jim Binkerd, R/W department, and his orchestra have played music for the Al Bedoo Shrine Circus for the past five years. Each year, Jim donates one day's music money to some crippled children's hospital. This year his donation went to the Galveston Texas Burns Hospital.



Betty

Betty A. Payne will be replacing Sharon Thompson. Betty attended Epping public schools in Epping, North Dakota and Minot State College in Minot, North Dakota. Betty graduated with a B.S. degree in business education. She previously taught high school business and home economics at Fromberg High School for two years. She is married to Jack Payne, who is a full time EMC student and Office Manager at Gibson's Discount Center. Her hobbies include playing the piano, swimming, and bowling.

\* \* \*

His car had caught fire and was destroyed. It being insured, he went at once to the insurance office and demanded his money. He was given a form to fill out, and was told he could not get the money, but the car would be replaced.

"Oh," said he, "If that is the way you do business, give me back the premium I paid the other day on my wife's policy."

\* \* \*

Three deaf men were riding on an English bus. Said one: "Is this Wembley?" "No," said the second, "Thursday." "So am I," said the third, "Let's get off and have a drink."



## Remarkable Montana's



The Montana Highway Commission's gross vehicle weight division has been livened up with at least two unusual requests for trip permits in the past few months. One was to move the former Colonial Club building to a new location and the other was to permit passage of a huge sailing ship, the "Nonsuch" on its way to Seattle, Wash.

The Colonial Club restaurant was a familiar sight on Helena's east side for many years. The building was abandoned upon the erection of the new Colonial Inn, and owner Tim Babcock desired its removal.

Billings house mover Duane Ostermiller prepared the huge two-story building for the move. The original plan was to travel east across the Capitol interchange, down Highway 12 toward East Helena, thence to a new site at the airport. However, when the building was weighed on the department's portable scale, it was discovered that at 322,890 pounds it would be too heavy, as well as too wide, for the structure. Plans were hastily revised to enable the building to traverse the fields behind the new Colonial, and cross





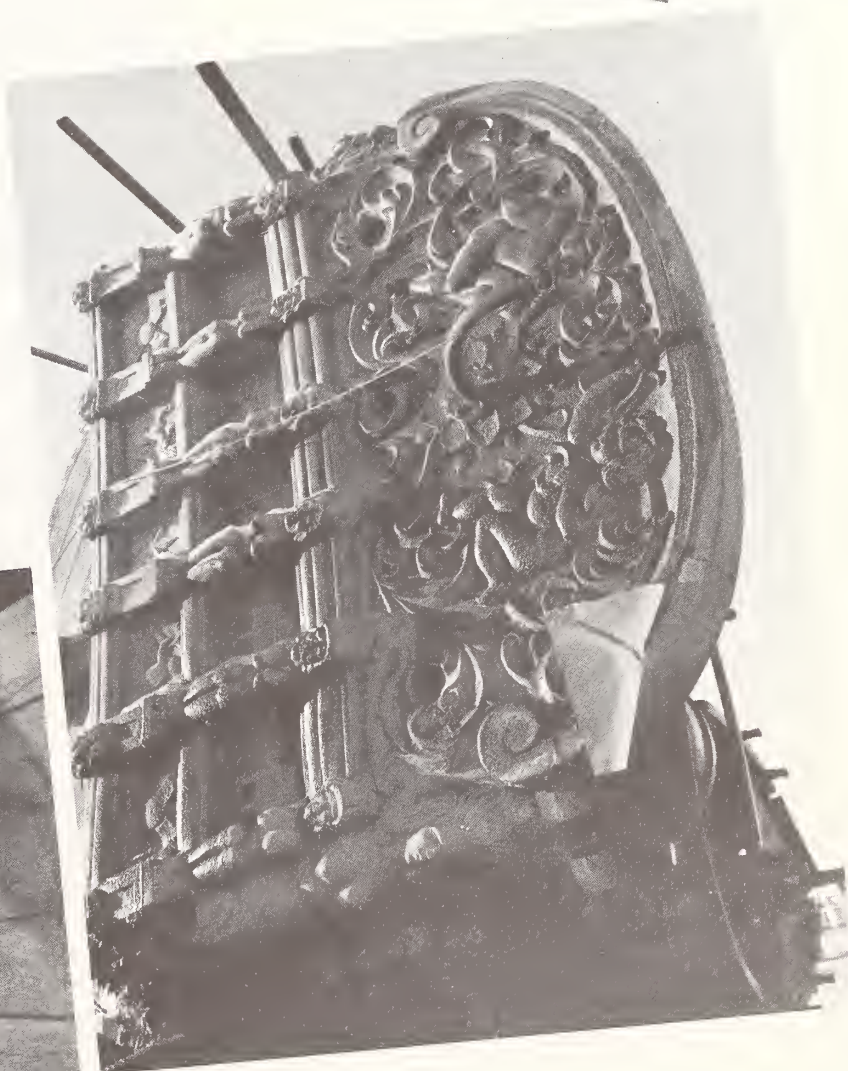
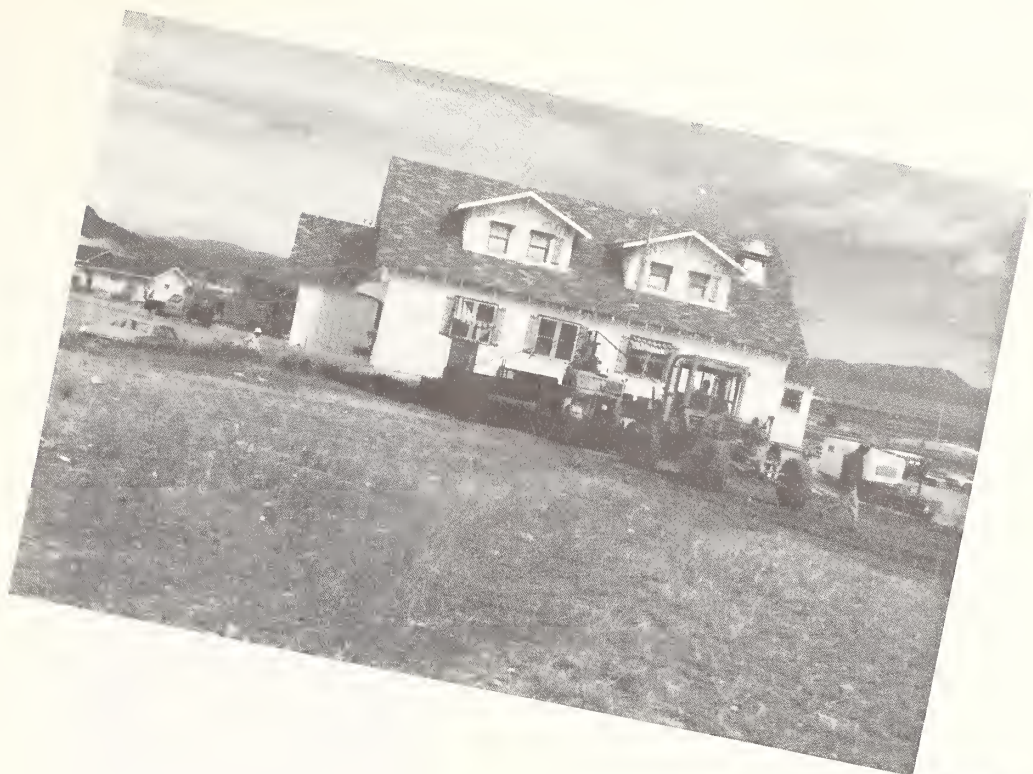
## sights upon highways!

Interstate 15's four lanes via a filled-in median. The move was accomplished in a smooth operation.

At the end of October, a full scale replica of the Nonsuch "sailed" the highways of Montana, entering on Interstate 15 from Canada above Shelby, traveling south to Helena, and crossing McDonald Pass to Missoula and points west.

The Nonsuch was a bulky traveling package, at 17 feet high and 20 feet wide. Masts and keel and other equipment such as galley, water tanks and auxiliary engine, were sent in a separate truck. The ship on its truck and dollies weighed 92,000 pounds, but the main problem of transportation was its size.

The boat is owned by the Hudson Bay Company, and was built in England as a replica of the original "Nonsuch" which established the trading company in 1670. She spent the summer sailing on the Great Lakes, and after being refitted this winter in Seattle will return to Winnipeg where she is to become the feature exhibit in the transportation wing of the Museum of Man and Nature.





Excerpts from a

### Letter to the Editor

Because of the present day unsettled world conditions with all the related struggles of inflation, war, rioting, etc., I felt I should set aside my frivolous poetic efforts for a spell and, instead, deal with a major problem facing us all . . .

Assuming that most field offices operate with approximately the same quota of office help (three women), and

Since the Third Annual Miss or Mrs. Montana Highways Contest will be next year, and

Further, that it is highly likely that two of the three office girls (?) have already competed in the first two contests,

It is therefore proposed that certain guidelines or ground rules be established for next year's contest.

Based on a slight knowledge of highway business, it is safe to state that the entire operation would disintegrate if use of the alphabet and numerals—or combinations thereof—were outlawed. Consequently, in true highway style, we propose that contestants be:

1. Age . . . 39+ (no—)
2. Marital status . . . M/4+ —1
3. Physical description . . . (To employ some footing terminology)
  - a. Densely speckled with gray
  - b. CC, PP or OO

Or, in words of non-highway personnel . . .

1. 39 years old or older
2. Mother of 4 (3 to 5 qualified also) which would normally insure that they would have no trouble meeting with one of the specs in article b, section 3.
3. Clairol notwithstanding, hair must be as nature has left it, gray and all. Charmingly Chubby, Pleasingly Plump, or Obviously Obese.

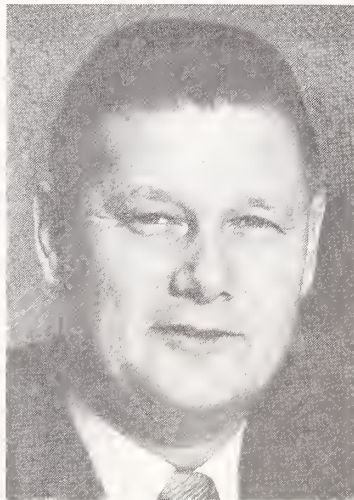
It is understood by the proposers of this measure that rather than narrowing the field, it will become much broader (no pun intended.)

It might be further suggested that no male judge over 23 years of age be allowed. Thus, the "Playboy" atmosphere of judging will be eliminated and more of the "Mother-type" emotions will prevail. (This ideal, of course, along with apple pie and the flag, is the embodiment of our natural heritage and **No One** could object.)

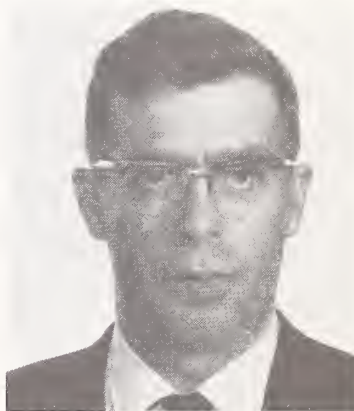
### Men promoted

Howard Stratton has been promoted to bridge engineer and Donald Gruel to maintenance engineer as a result of the retirements of A. W. "Bill" Jones and Thomas Ratchford.

Stratton is a native of Livingston, where he attended high school. He graduated from Montana State University, Bozeman, with a B.S. in civil engineering.



Stratton



Gruel

He first came to work for the highway department in 1949 as a detailer in the bridge department. Later he was promoted to designer and assistant bridge engineer. In 1962 he became utility engineer in the right of way section, and in 1970 was promoted to senior assistant bridge engineer. He was named bridge engineer in October, 1971.

Though there may be some drawbacks to a contest of this nature, it is felt that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. For instance, the advertising potential is tremendous! Why, with a Queen from this category of women, the readers would actually look at the TRUCKS in the pies!!

—Anonymous

(reprinted from Bozeman Trails)

Gruel was born in Belfrey, where he attended schools. He also is a graduate of MSU with a degree in civil engineering. He first came to work for the department in 1952 as a chainman in the Billings division. After working as an engineer-in-training he was assigned to hydraulics section as a designer. He was promoted to assistant hydraulics engineer, and in 1967 to hydraulics engineer. After promotion to assistant maintenance engineer, he was named maintenance engineer in September, 1971.

### WASTE MAKES HASTE

#### Or: Ride On, Rubbish!

(News Item: A \$1.8 million demonstration project in Orchard Park, N. Y., is producing molten slag from refuse . . . thought to have potential value as an aggregate for concrete. The process will convert municipal garbage and trash into slag by burning at extremely high temperatures.)

No, no! Don't grind that orange rind

Inside your sink disposal!

Just let it wait a prouder fate

By Orchard Park's proposal.

That moldy cheese, those furry peas,

That rancid slice of bacon

Might speed your way to Buzzards Bay,

To Akron or to Macon.

Don't light your fires with old

Esquires,

Just toss them in the bag!

A blazing flash can turn your trash

To lovely molten slag.

And slag, of course, provides a source

Of concrete aggregate

To help pave roads to men's abodes—

How great can garbage get?

Ecology, it's clear to see,

Will benefit each minute

When through these plans, we find old cans

Not by the road, but in it.

From lowly scraps our highway maps

Will bloom with fine new freeways,

And coast to coast our land will boast

Of Interstate Debrisways!

—Virginia Wayland

(Reprinted with permission from the "Highway User" magazine, September, 1971.)